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REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1, 5, and 10 for clarification. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claim 11 and the finding that claims 6-9 contain allowable subject matter. As demonstrated below, base claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the references cited against them. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 6-9, which depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively.

The Examiner objected to the specification under 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP 608.01(o) as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed feature "second memory." Applicants refer to the route-information-saving memory 50#1 illustrated in Fig. 7, and its corresponding description—including on page 38, lines 4-12 and page 41, lines 19-22—in the specification, as an exemplary embodiment of the claimed "second memory." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

Claims 1-5 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,049,524 to Fukushima et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,198,722 to Bunch. Applicants amend claims 1, 5, and 10 in a good faith effort to clarify the claimed invention as distinguished from the cited references. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Fukushima et al. describe a technique for system switchover in a multiplex router device where internal traffic is reduced between an active mode route calculation unit and a standby mode route calculation unit. The Examiner relied upon portions of Fukushima et al. as alleged disclosure of the claimed first memory, route-information-receiving unit, route-information-writing unit, route-information-transmission control unit, route-information-change-reporting

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unit, and relay-processing unit. The cited portions of Fukushima et al.—namely, col. 6, lines 1-3; col. 8, lines 55-67; col. 9, lines 66-67; and col. 10, lines 1-5—fail to disclose or suggest the claimed features in that such portions of Fukushima et al. merely describe internal state notification between a state monitor module 20 and route calculation units 11 in a router. Indeed, the cited portions of Fukushima et al. only describe a state monitor module 20 checking if there is any state notification from another route calculation unit 11, thereby perceiving whether the other route calculation unit 11 is in failure and, correspondingly, deciding whether to bring its own route calculation unit 11 into an active mode. Please see, e.g., col. 9, line 66 to col. 10, line 12. As such, Fukushima et al., as relied upon by the Examiner, do not disclose or suggest the features of the claimed route-information-change-reporting unit as alleged by the Examiner. In particular, the cited portions of Fukushima et al. do not disclose or suggest,

“reporting a change in information on a route involving a particular adjacent router to adjacent routers other than said particular adjacent router if information on a route has not been received from said particular adjacent router for at least a predetermined period of time,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

The Examiner acknowledged that Fukushima et al. do not disclose the features of the claimed temporary-halt-start-informing unit and temporary-halt-recovery-informing unit, but relied upon Bunch as a combining reference that allegedly discloses these features. In particular, the Examiner relied upon a method claimed therein of transmitting a “first signal” from a central node to an end station that causes the end station to defer data transmission, halting the transmission of this “first signal”, and resuming the transmission of this “first signal” as alleged disclosure of the features in the claimed invention. The cited portions of Bunch merely claim a central node transmitting the first signal that causes an end station to defer a data transmission, wherein the end station operates under a medium access control protocol. Such portions further

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claim the central node halting the transmission of the first signal such that a time duration of the transmission of the first signal is less than the time period of the medium access control protocol. In other words, such portions of Bunch only describe a central node transmitting and halting a signal causing an end station to defer data transmission, and, thus, do not disclose or suggest transmitting a message indicating a start of a temporary halt in the event of such a temporary halt. Such portions further fail to disclose or suggest transmitting a message indicating a recovery from the temporary halt.

Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Fukushima et al. and Bunch, the combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a] router for routing a frame, comprising:
a first memory;
a route-information-receiving unit for receiving route information transmitted by an adjacent router;
a route-information-writing unit for storing said information on a route into said first memory;
a route-information-transmission control unit for controlling transmission of said information on a route to adjacent routers;
a route-information-change-reporting unit for reporting a change in information on a route involving a particular adjacent router to adjacent routers other than said particular adjacent router if information on a route has not been received from said particular adjacent router for at least a predetermined period of time;
a relay-processing unit for routing a received frame on the basis of said route information stored in said first memory;
a temporary-halt-start-informing unit for transmitting a temporary-halt-start notification message indicating a start of a temporary halt to adjacent routers in the event of said temporary halt; and
a temporary-halt-recovery-informing unit for transmitting a temporary-halt-recovery notification message indicating a recovery from a temporary halt to adjacent routers in the event of said recovery from said temporary halt, wherein

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said temporary halt temporarily halts a process relating to routing including a transmission of said information on a route, and said recovery restarts the process relating to routing including a transmission of said information on a route," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Fukushima et al. and Bunch, separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 5 and 10 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and are, therefore, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional references made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

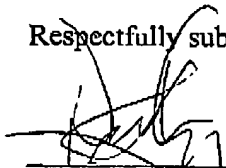
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Respectfully submitted,



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